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Letter dated 31 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I enclose the assessment of the United Kingdom Presidency of the Security Council for July 2002 (see annex). This has been prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Council before submitting it. I should be grateful if you would circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

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Annex

Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (July 2002)

Introduction

Under the Presidency of Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Security Council fulfilled a busy programme in July. Much of the first two weeks was taken up with the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). The Council also considered a wide range of African issues, including holding a workshop on West Africa. Five peacekeeping mandates fell due during the month. The Council also recommended to the General Assembly that Switzerland be admitted to membership in the United Nations. During the month, the Council adopted nine resolutions and three presidential statements It held 22 public meetings, including 4 with troop-contributing countries, and 7 private meetings. Council members met in informal consultations on 17 occasions.

The United Kingdom Presidency held as many debates as possible in public, including a number at which there was no formal list of speakers, to improve the interactive nature of the debate. The President spoke to the news media after each session of consultations. He was authorized to make a number of statements to the press (see enclosure). The Presidency also briefed non-members of the Council after each session of informal consultations. The United Kingdom web site included an updated version of the Council's programme of work (updated daily) and all statements made to the press.

Africa

Guinea-Bissau

During a private meeting, on 8 July 2002, the Representative of the Secretary-General, David Stephen, briefed the Council on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. Mr. Stephen covered the main points of the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/662). The Council agreed that there was a need for greater support from the international community to Guinea-Bissau but, equally, the Government of Guinea-Bissau had to prove its commitment to the consolidation of peace and to demonstrate its ability to manage public finances. The Council further agreed that its Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul (Mauritius), would look at Guinea-Bissau more closely. The Council decided that the reports of the Secretary-General on Guinea-Bissau would from now on be issued every six months, with an oral briefing provided by the Secretariat to the Council every three months.

Somalia

During informal consultations on 3 July, members of the Council received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Winston A. Tubman, on the most recent developments in Somalia. This was followed on 9 July by an update, also during informal consultations, by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast. During the discussions, Council members shared the concerns of both the Special Representative and the Under-Secretary-General that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace process was at an impasse. They agreed that the role of members of the Council should be to help bring this process back on track by, for example, using their influence to urge the member States of IGAD to resolve their differences and work out modalities for the forthcoming Nairobi Peace and Reconciliation Conference. Following the briefing on 9 July, Ambassador Ole Kolby (Norway) introduced a draft resolution, which would establish a panel of experts to investigate violations of the Somali arms embargo. The text was adopted as Council resolution 1425 (2002) of 22 July.

Sierra Leone

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council on Sierra Leone at a private meeting, on 11 July. He said the security situation remained largely stable, thanks to the presence of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). But there were important challenges ahead in managing the transition from peacekeeping to peace-building, particularly strengthening the police and the judicial and penal systems. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) described his recent visit to the region, noting the continuing risks to peace, particularly the instability in Liberia, and the need for the withdrawal of UNAMSIL to be carefully planned and linked to increased capacity of the Sierra Leone police and army.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

The President of the Council issued a statement to the press on behalf of the Council on 12 July, prior to the meeting between the Boundary Commission and Ethiopia and Eritrea in The Hague on 15 and 16 July. The statement expressed the Council's hope that the meeting would clarify the operational arrangements for the border demarcation, including the role of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and its relationship with the Boundary Commission, in order to ensure effective cooperation and an expeditious demarcation process. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed Council members during informal consultations on 17 July on the meeting in The Hague. He outlined the Boundary Commission's Demarcation Directions, as announced and accepted by the parties of the meeting. During the following discussion, Council members welcomed the agreement that had been reached on a common framework for the demarcation process. Council members agreed with the Under-Secretary-General that UNMEE was best suited to undertake the tasks required of it, and that its mandate should be adjusted accordingly. Ambassador Kolby (Norway) therefore introduced a draft resolution after the briefing to provide for these adjustments, as well as to urge further cooperation and restraint from both sides. This was subsequently adopted by the Council on 14 August as resolution 1430 (2002).

Central African Republic

The Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, General Lamine Cissé, briefed the Council on the situation in the Central African Republic during a private meeting on 11 July. General Cissé went over the main highlights of the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/671). During the ensuing discussion, members of the Council welcomed the encouraging developments in the Central African Republic, particularly the improvement in relations between the Government and the opposition. The growing climate of confidence in the Central African Republic was good, but the Council agreed that a number of issues of concern had to be addressed if this was to continue. Furthermore, while support from the Bretton Woods institutions was considered essential, the Council was unanimous that the Central African Republic had to shoulder its share of responsibility by, for example, taking further robust measures to tackle corruption. The President was authorized to send a letter on behalf of the Council to the international financial institutions, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, asking them to show consideration for the special circumstances of the Central African Republic.

Burundi

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed Council members in informal consultations on 16 July on diplomatic developments surrounding Burundi and on the increased level of violence. Council members were also briefed by the Secretariat on reports of further violence on 31 July. The President made statements to the press reiterating the Council's support for the transitional institutions and the Arusha Process; appealing for a ceasefire; expressing concern about the humanitarian situation; and expressing criticism of the arms supplies that were allowed to go to rebel groups.

Angola

Pending the Secretary-General's recommendations on the future of the United Nations presence in Angola, the Council agreed with the Secretary-General's rolling over of the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola until 15 August.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During informal consultations on 16 July, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on the general situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the fighting in the east and recent diplomatic contacts among the parties. The High Commissioner presented a report on the violence that took place in Kisangani in May, to which the Council had drawn the attention of her Office. Following this discussion, the Permanent Mission of France circulated a draft Presidential Statement which was adopted by the Council on 23 July. In it, the Council reiterated its strong condemnation of the violence in Kisangani, stressed the responsibility of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma (RCD-Goma) for the killings which took place after it regained control of the city's radio station on 14 May, demanded that RCD-Goma bring the perpetrators to justice and prevent any recurrence of such events, and stressed the responsibility of the Government of Rwanda to use its influence to ensure compliance by RCD-Goma. The Council also called for an end to the fighting in South Kivu and for all parties to exercise restraint in the Ituri region. On the positive side, the Council welcomed efforts to advance the dialogue, both between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and among the Congolese parties.

During the informal consultations of the Council on 30 July, the President of the Council drew the attention of members to the signature that day in Pretoria of the agreement between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The intention of the South African Foreign Minister to visit New York to brief Council members on the agreement in early August was also noted. Following consultations, the President of the Council issued an agreed statement to the press welcoming the agreement, thanking the South African Government for its role, looking forward to examining the agreement in detail and calling on the parties concerned to hold early discussions with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on implementation.

Western Sahara

Council members consulted frequently between 15 and 30 July in informal consultations and in the corridors on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The President of the Council also held meetings with representatives of the two parties in the dispute over Western Sahara, Morocco and Polisario, and with the Permanent Representative of Algeria. It became clear during these consultations that the two parties did not agree on the way forward. There was as a result no consensus among Council members on any of the options put forward by the Secretary-General in his report dated 19 February 2002 (S/2002/178). The Council therefore agreed in its resolution 1429 (2002) of 30 July which contains a provision renewing the mandate of MINURSO, to consider any approach which provided for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara that the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy might propose. The Council also expressed its concern about several humanitarian issues that remain unresolved and, inter alia, called upon the parties to collaborate on confidence-building measures, release Moroccan prisoners of war, and resolve the fate of those still unaccounted for since the beginning of the conflict.

Workshop on West Africa

In an open meeting on 18 July, the Council conducted a workshop on the Mano River Union, which was chaired by Baroness Amos, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The Secretary-General addressed the workshop, as did several invited speakers, including the Foreign Ministers of Sierra Leone and Guinea, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and representatives of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Community of West African States. Several lessons learned from Sierra Leone were highlighted: the need for early international action, a coordinated approach within and beyond the United Nations system, a clearly defined peacekeeping mandate backed up by adequate resources and post-conflict support. As for the Mano River region, it was emphasized that regional initiatives for ending the conflict in Liberia should be supported and a strategy for peace-building in Liberia

developed. The new Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa could play a key role in these efforts. The President subsequently circulated an informal note summarizing the lessons learned from the workshop.

Working Group on Africa

On 31 July, Council members agreed on a series of recommendations from the Working Group on Africa.

Asia

Iraq

The Security Council held informal consultations on 8 July to hear a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet, Iqbal Riza, on the outcome of the United Nations/Iraq talks that took place in Vienna on 4 and 5 July. The Security Council agreed to a short press statement, thanking the Secretary-General for his efforts; noting that the Chef de Cabinet had reported some Iraqi movement towards complying with obligations set out in Security Council resolutions on the return of property; expressing the hope that this would lead to concrete Iraqi action; and calling on Iraq immediately to fulfil its outstanding Security Council obligations, including on missing persons and the unconditional return of weapons inspectors. The Security Council also agreed to further discussion with the Secretary-General (which took place at the lunch for the Secretary-General on 23 July) to discuss with him how to take the dialogue forward.

Middle East

During July, the President of the Council held two meetings with the Arab troika, as well as the Permanent Observer of Palestine. On 17 July, the Secretary-General briefed Council members on the meeting of the "quartet" (United Nations, Russian Federation, United States of America and European Union), at which he had represented the United Nations, and that group's subsequent meeting with three Arab representatives. On 18 July, the Council agreed on a statement by its President (S/PRST/2002/20), which supported the quartet's joint statement. Late on 23 July, the President of the Council received a request for an urgent meeting of the Council. The Council held a debate on the situation during the evening of 24 July, at which many non-members took the opportunity to make their views known. During the week of 22 July, Council members discussed the situation on several occasions. The Arab Group, through the Syrian Arab Republic as its representative on the Council, circulated a draft resolution for consideration. There being no immediate agreement on the text, no action was taken on the draft.

Afghanistan

The Council held an open debate on Afghanistan on 18 July, with the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, who said that the most pressing current issue was security and that the way to restore security throughout Afghanistan was to establish a national army and a national police force. He outlined the immediate priorities for the Transitional Authority and for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and appealed to the international community to remain engaged and to make good on financial pledges. Council members and non-members expressed appreciation for Mr. Brahimi's personal role and supported his assessment of the current situation and the way forward.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The Secretary-General issued a report on the situation in southern Lebanon which recommended an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) until 31 January 2003. The Security Council held a meeting with troop-contributing countries and members discussed the report in informal consultations. The Council adopted resolution 1428 (2002), in which it endorsed the Secretary-General's report and extended the mandate of UNIFIL, as recommended, and requested the Secretariat to continue with its plans to reconfigure the Force by the end of 2002.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina/Prevlaka

On 30 June 2002, the Council had adopted resolution 1420 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIBH until 3 July. It had proved impossible to extend the mandate until 31 December 2002, as originally proposed, because one permanent

member insisted that the concerns it had with regard to the potential scope of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) should be addressed to its satisfaction before the UNMIBH mandate was renewed. Efforts to find a solution to these concerns continued in informal consultations on 2 and 3 July. At the end of the second set of consultations on 3 July, the Council adopted resolution 1421 (2002), by which it further extended the mandate of UNMIBH until 15 July.

Informal consultations on the matter continued from 10 to 12 July, and an open meeting of the Council was held on 10 July, at which nearly 40 States spoke. The Legal Counsel assisted members of the Council in their deliberations in informal consultations on 11 and 12 July, and the Council adopted resolution 1422 (2002) on 12 July. By that resolution, the Council requested, consistent with the provisions of article 16 of the ICC Statute, that ICC, if a case arises involving current or former officials or personnel from a contributing State not a party to the Statute over acts or omissions relating to an operation established or authorized by the United Nations, shall for a 12-month period starting 1 July 2002 not commence or proceed with investigation or prosecution of any such case, unless the Security Council decides otherwise. The Council also expressed the intention to renew that request under the same conditions each 1 July for further 12-month periods for as long as may be necessary. Immediately after adoption of resolution 1422 (2002), the Council adopted resolution 1423 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIBH until 31 December 2002, and resolution 1424 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka until 15 October 2002.

Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

On 30 July the Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation in Kosovo and held an open debate on the issue. The Serbian Deputy Prime Minister also addressed the Council at that meeting.

Cyprus

On 9 July, the members of the Security Council heard a briefing from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, concerning the direct talks in Cyprus between the two leaders which had been in progress since January, pursuant to their agreement on 4 December 2001. The members of the Council issued a statement to the press at the end of the meeting.

Georgia

On 29 July, the Council held a private meeting to discuss the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia. The Georgian Minister for Special Affairs, Malkhaz Kakabadze, addressed the Council. The Director of the Europe and Latin America Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Joachim Hutter, subsequently briefed Council members in informal consultations. He updated Council members on developments since the release, on 10 July, of the Secretary-General's most recent report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/742). The Council adopted resolution 1427 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia for a further six months to 31 January 2003. The resolution was adopted unanimously as a presidential text. There were no statements.

International tribunals

On 23 July, in closed meeting, the Council heard a briefing from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Claude Jorda, about the report he had submitted to the Council on the judicial status of the Tribunal and the prospects for referring certain cases to national courts (S/2002/678, annex). The Prosecutor for the Tribunal, Carla Del Ponte, also participated. The President and the Prosecutor answered questions from Council members. At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council made a statement on its behalf (S/PRST/2002/21).

Other issues

Conflict peacekeeping and gender

The Council held an open debate on conflict, peacekeeping and gender on 25 July. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the meeting on the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations relating to implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and wider women and peace and security issues, both at Headquarters and in the field. The Assistant Secretary-

General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Angela King, then briefed the meeting on the emerging findings from the study carried out pursuant to resolution 1325 (2000) and highlighted some of the key likely recommendations. The Council also heard a short presentation from the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, Noeleen Heyzer, on gender issues at the field level. Council members and non-members who spoke welcomed the progress made to date in incorporating a gender perspective throughout the work of the United Nations and expressed their views on how further advances could be achieved. The President concluded the meeting with a summing up of the main points, which was subsequently circulated in writing. The Council looks forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's report in October to coincide with the second anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000).

Enclosure*
Statement to the Press by the President of the Security Council, July 2002

A

Introduction to the Security Council programme for July, 2 July 2002

The objective of this briefing is to fill you in on the Security Council's programme for the month of July and to take questions on that programme. You will understand that I am not authorised by the Council, in any specific sense, to talk about the substance of these meetings.

The UK Presidency month has no particular, or grand, theme to it. We just wish to conduct the business of the Security Council in as effective a manner as possible. It is going to be a crowded month, not only because there are a great number of things to be done anyway, but because the international scene is full of issues which need quite deep discussion and are raising strong emotions so we can expect the Security Council, in one way or another, to be part of those. Let's have a look at the Programme of Work in front of you (version timed 10.30 on 2 July).

There are several Peacekeeping Mandate renewals this month, more so than the average. Four renewals and the office in Angola which needs to be re-shaped. The mandate renewals are the UN mission on Prevlaka, UNMOP which expires on the 15 July, and the operations in Lebanon, Georgia and Western Sahara, UNIFIL, UNAMIG and MINURSO needing renewal by the end of the month. Many of these are complex in their own right and will need quite a lot of Council discussion.

Western Sahara is one mandate renewal that will need to be discussed in depth by the Council. We have had several rollovers on that subject at two or three month intervals over the past year, and it is the expectation that we need to come to some decisions on that. In addition to the peacekeeping operations, we will take forward a good deal of other business, not least on Africa with briefings and informal consultations on, as far as Africa is concerned, Somalia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic, Burundi, the DRC, Angola, the Mano River Union, Ethiopia/Eritrea and Western Sahara.

There are also meetings scheduled on some other favourites. We will need to hear a report from the Secretary-General on his talks in Vienna later this week with the Foreign Minister of Iraq. We expect that to be scheduled on the 8th July in informal consultations. Alvaro de Soto, the Special Representative on Cyprus, will brief the Council in informal consultations on 9 July. We will have two items on the Democratic

* The enclosure is being circulated in the language of submission only.

The Middle East features once but may, of course, come up more than once during the month. We scheduled informal consultations on the Middle East Peace Process to coincide with the availability, we hope, of the Secretary-General. He will decide whether there is anything he wishes to say in an open meeting at that point.

On the 19th we have Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi hopes to be with us that day. Both Brahimi's briefing and the discussion that follows will be open to non-members of the Council. This has not been provided for for some months, on Afghanistan, so we thought that would be useful.

Let me make a comment on the meetings we are proposing on the 18th and 25th, maybe with some procedural innovations. On the 18th we would like to have a workshop on the lessons learned from the UN's experiences in Sierra Leone, and how these might be applied in the area of the Mano River Union and Western Africa more generally. That meeting will, if current arrangements are confirmed, be chaired by the UK Minister for Africa Baroness Valerie Amos, who is the Foreign Office Minister for Africa, and the Prime Minister's Representative within the G8 for Africa and following up NEPAD. That will go on morning and afternoon in an open meeting with visiting speakers from the Secretariat, UN agencies and others who are active on the ground in Sierra Leone. The second part will be about applying those lessons to the Mano River Union.

On the 25th we want to have a discussion of the role of women in conflict areas and the effect of conflict on women's interests and rights. This will not be a repeat of the thematic debates we've already had on this issue, which led for instance, to the adoption of Resolution 1325. We want to look at how the principles enunciated in 1325 can be applied on the ground and in mandates in specific areas. So it's actualising and operationalising the principles enunciated in previous debates and resolutions on gender. What we call gender mainstreaming. That too will be an open meeting of the Council and we'll probably start with briefings from members of the Secretariat concerned with gender issues, for instance Angela King, Noleen Hayza and maybe one or two others.

You might like to note that tomorrow afternoon, during the ECOSOC high level segment, in the general debate includes the question of HIV/AIDS. I have accepted an invitation from the President of ECOSOC to speak as President of the Security Council on HIV/AIDS, representing the views of the Security Council, in a way which does not often happen. Likewise the President of ECOSOC will be invited, subject to the wishes of members of the Security Council, to our open meeting on the 18th to give the views on economic and social aspects of lessons learned in Sierra Leone.

On the 30th of this month Michael Steiner will be with us for a briefing on Kosovo, that too will be an open meeting. And on the 23rd President

Jorda, President of the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia, wishes to have a meeting with the Council. This will be a private meeting, to explain how he believes the work of the court should be taken forward. It will not be his annual report to the Council. This will be a special meeting with the Council, which members of the UN will be able to listen to.

As for procedures, I will follow the practice of previous months. You can expect the UK to be interested in effective time management of the Council and to start as close as possible to time. We will try to and produce results from the Council, subject of course to the tenure of the debate on each of the issues we discuss. Following meetings of the Council I will normally speak at the microphone at the stakeout on the day's business. If the Council has authorised me to make a press statement, I will of course make that statement, on that timing, at the end of the morning session. But I will normally come to the stakeout even if not authorised to say anything in specific terms, to give you an informal description, as President of the Council, of the morning's business. I am open to requests from ladies and gentlemen of the media to talk to you, in this room, about specific issues. If there are relevant and appropriate requests, I will consider these.

As I say it is quite an intensive month with some fairly high profile issues, and if it's possible for me to give you clarifications on where the Council is going on certain issues I will try to do that. You can expect all transcripts, all Security Council texts, to be posted on the UK Presidency website as soon as possible in real time. The website is www.ukun.org and you follow-up and click on presidency pages.

Since I won't be able to escape questions on this subject I might just say a brief word on the International Criminal Court and the UNMIBH resolution. I have not been authorised by the Council to say anything on this subject and I cannot go into substance without this authority but I would just like to give you a steer on what's going on and what you can expect between now and midnight tomorrow.

There was no sign in my bilaterals with members of the Council yesterday that any member of the Council is changing its position of principle on this issue, but the Council decided not to have an extensive rerun of those positions of principle in informal consultations this morning, because there were signs that discussions between capitals at the political level, and within capitals, were looking again at what options there were for moving forward in spite of the diverse positions of principle. The Council decided to leave time for these discussions and see if they could reach any proposals which might bridge differences within the Council. I think the Council is remaining perfectly calm on this issue. It recognises that there are differences, there are concerns. There are concerns which, if I may speak from the UK point of view, are legitimate to address on the part of the united States, but the majority members of the Council believe that there are arrangements under the

ICC statute which address these concerns. But there needs to be a way forward because the UN has to operate. The United States has said consistently that it does not wish to do any damage to UN peacekeeping operations, and therefore there are discussions, in the corridors here, and in and between capitals, to see what the options may be for easing the problem before midnight tomorrow.

That means that its not likely that there will be substantive discussion in informal consultations today. It's much more likely that discussion will proceed tomorrow once we have heard a briefing on Somalia. We won't have informal consultations on Somalia, that will be postponed until next week. Discussions on UNMIBH will continue as long as is necessary during the course of tomorrow to see whether there is a solution whether for UNMIBH or the generic problem. It is not impossible that we might have a brief meeting today just to catch up with where things have got to, but I am reserving judgement on that and will not schedule a meeting unless there is a request from a member of the Council. If there was to be such a request, there would be no meeting of the Council earlier than 4.30 pm. The whole Council, all 15 members, are concerned to ensure that as little damage as possible is done to the UN's work in Bosnia and to the interests of completing the process under Deyton of bringing Bosnia and Herzegovina to a sustained stability with the help of the international community.

B

Report on Security Council business, 3 July 2002

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

This is a report on Council business so far today. We started this morning with a private meeting of the Council on Somalia during which we had a briefing from Mr Winston Tubman, who is the Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and the Head of the UN Office in Somalia. There were questions and answers as a result of that briefing and the Council will have informal consultations to debate the situation in Somalia and how to take forward the efforts by the parties and their neighbours and the IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development) process. Probably on 9 July.

We then moved to informal consultations on which there was a single subject which was the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the need to renew the mandate for UNMIBH, the UN operation there. But the session focussed on the related issue of attitudes to the International Criminal Court, and how we could resolve differences between members of the Council on how to move forward on that relationship between the US and UN peacekeeping. Members of the Council gave their views on language which you are aware of that had been put down by the United States. The United States absorbed those reactions, and will have to speak for itself as to how it found those reactions.

I then adjourned the discussions so that people can report to their capitals, and so that there can be further discussion between capitals, and within capitals, on where we have got to so far. Informal consultations will be reconvened at 4 o' clock sharp this afternoon to have a further discussion of where we go from the positions given this morning and what options there are before the mandate of UNMIBH expires at midnight. So we have a number of options in front of us. We have a situation where differences in the Council have not yet been bridged, I am not going to discuss with you in public the positions of particular members of the Council - or of the substance of the debate - that will remain confidential until we have a result. But I wanted you to know where we had got to and what the prospects were for discussions for the rest of today.

C

Report on Security Council Business, 8 July 2002

Guinea-Bissau

This morning we had a private meeting of the Security Council in the main room on Guinea Bissau, with a briefing from the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Peace Building Support Office, Mr David Stephen. Members authorised me to make the following statement on their behalf.

Members of the Council supported the Secretary-General's call in his latest report on Guinea-Bissau for all the parties and leaders there to promote constructive dialogue within the norms laid down by the constitution.

Members supported the Secretary-General's appeal to both the executive and the legislative branches to reach a compromise on the constitutional issue, including the separation of powers.

Members of the Council called on President Kumba Yala to commit himself to three things. i) to fully respect for national reconciliation, good governance and the implementation of the programme for demobilisation, reintegration and reinsertion of former combatants ii) to close monitoring of the management of public finances and iii) to improve inter-relations with the Gambia and continuing full co-operation with Senegal on the issues at stake.

Members of the Council supported the Secretary-General's call for assistance from the international community for Guinea-Bissau in priority areas and encouraged the Breton Wood's Institutions to continue their constructive engagement with Guinea-Bissau.

Iraq

Then we moved to informal consultations on Iraq and we heard a briefing from the Chef de Cabinet Iqbal Riza on behalf of the Secretary-General on the Secretary-General's talks with the Foreign Minister of Iraq and his team in Vienna on 4 and 5 July. The members of the Council expressed deep gratitude to the Secretary-General and his team for persevering with these efforts with the Iraqi team on implementation of the resolutions. The Chef de Cabinet reported some Iraqi movement towards complying with obligations under the resolutions on Kuwaiti property and archives and on agreement on the setting up of a mechanism for that, Council members expressed the hope that this would lead to concrete Iraqi action on those issues. Otherwise they repeated the need for Iraq, immediately, to fulfil all requirements under the resolutions, including on Kuwaiti missing persons and on the unconditional return of weapons inspectors.

D

Security Council briefings on Somalia and Cyprus, 9 July 2002

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. A quick report on the activities of the Security Council this morning in informal consultations. We covered two subjects, Cyprus and Somalia. I'll read you a prepared press statement on Cyprus in a second.

Somalia

On Somalia we had a further briefing from the Secretariat, from Sir Kieran Prendergast, the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and discussed the briefing we had heard on 3 July from the Representative of the Secretary-General, Winston Tubman. The Security Council will be considering during the course of this week a draft resolution on Somalia by Norway. We otherwise discussed the prospects for the IGAD-led conference in Nairobi which is due to take place in November. The Security Council focussed in some detail on what is going on in Somalia and what the parties need to do to make that conference a success. There will be further discussion of Somalia as we approach the conference, though we have had a good round now, last week and today on that particular issue.

Cyprus

On Cyprus we had a detailed briefing from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Alvaro de Soto, and agreed the following statement:

"The members of the Security Council heard on 9 July a further briefing from Mr Alvaro de Soto, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, concerning the direct talks in Cyprus between the two leaders which have been in progress since January, pursuant to their agreement on 4 December 2001. They reviewed the whole process since the talks began on 16 January 2002.

The members of the Council welcomed the support given to the talks and to the Secretary-General's efforts by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union meeting in Seville on 21-22 June and by the Foreign Ministers of the G8 on 13 June.

The members of the Council expressed disappointment that, despite the Secretary-General's valuable personal involvement, including when he visited the Island in May, progress remained disappointingly slow and the June target date for agreement had not been met. They noted in this regard that the Turkish Cypriot side had been less constructive in its approach so far and had declined to support the goal of resolving the core issues by the end of June. They also noted with regret that the call by the members of the Council on 2 May that the UN should play a fuller part in the talks had not yet received the requisite response; and the members reiterated that call.

The members of the Council endorsed the intention to continue the present talks process on the Island for a further period, in pursuance of the mission entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Council in its Resolution 1250. They urged both sides to co-operate fully in such an effort and in particular to work with the Secretary-General's Special Adviser so as to enable him to establish the component parts of a comprehensive settlement which takes full consideration of relevant Security Council resolutions and treaties. They strongly underscored the need for the Turkish side in particular to move in this direction.

The members of the Council invited the Secretary-General to give it a further report in early September."

That's the end of the prepared press statement on Cyprus.

E

Informal consultations on Bosnia and Herzegovina, 11 July 2002

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

We have just had a couple of hours on and off of informal consultations on Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are continuing to discuss the text seen on the International Criminal Court. The United States has put a text into blue, slightly adapted from the text they proposed in informal consultations yesterday evening in paragraphs 2 and 3. You have seen that. France has put forward some alternative language for paragraph one. The differences between those two texts have not been resolved this afternoon in informal consultations. Therefore discussions will continue overnight with capitals on the relative merits of those two texts and there will be renewed informal consultations tomorrow.

The subjects tomorrow: at 10.30 what is likely to be a very short updating briefing on Afghanistan from Under-Secretary General Prendergast, and the presentation of a report by the United Kingdom to the Council about the United Kingdom's last few weeks of leadership of ISAF in Kabul. We will then see where we have got to on a joint resolution on the UN mission in Previaka UNMOP, which needs to be adopted by the end of Monday 15 July, and we will see about the timing for taking that forward and then we will get back into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: What is the forecast outlook for a possible vote tomorrow on the US resolution?

A: I personally would like to get this over and done with tomorrow if we can reach a solution, but I am not going to propose something that doesn't work tomorrow if Monday will help to get the solution that does work. So I think it is still 50/50 between Friday and Monday.

Q: Are the drafts ready for Bosnia and Previaka?

A: They are ready to go if we have to take another route, yes.

Q: Would you characterise your work tomorrow as an effort to modify the American proposal, or is it more an effort to bring the two proposals together in some form?

A: I would characterise our work tomorrow as trying to get a decision in the Council that provides a solution to the two problems we face on the court and in peacekeeping. Still as fundamental as that.

Q: Would you describe the significance of the changes the Americans made in their text in blue principally to paragraphs 3 and 2?

A: I think the focus in the Council was operative paragraph one, that's the real point and we can all see that.

Q: What's the UK appraisal at this point of the French proposal, what's the UK appraisal of the French proposal?

A: We can quite clearly go with anything that France and the United States could sort out between them. We would be quite happy with that.

F

Private meetings on Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic, 11 July 2002

We had a useful pair of private meetings this morning in the Security Council. One on Sierra Leone the other on the Central African Republic.

Sierra Leone

On Sierra Leone we had a briefing form Under Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guehenno and discussed the Secretary-General's report on UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone. Members welcomed the important role played by UNAMSIL in the elections. They underlined the need for further reform of the security sector in Sierra Leone, especially the need to develop the capacity of the Sierra Leone police. They agreed these would be key benchmarks in planning for the gradual downsizing of UNAMSIL. Council Members looked forward to a further discussion of this after the Secretary-General has reported on UNAMSIL in the next round in September.

Member States noted the current short fall in funding for Sierra Leone and appealed to donors not to underestimate the country's continuing requirement for peace building support. This was a very important element of the discussion this morning.

We also had a briefing from Ambassador Aguilar Zinser of Mexico on his recent visit to West Africa as chairman of the Sierra Leone Sanctions Committee. Council Members agreed on the importance of a regional perspective. The fighting in Liberia could threaten the stability of Sierra Leone still. And they encouraged the efforts of ECOWAS and others towards finding a solution to the Liberian conflict.

Council Members looked forward to the workshop on the Mano River Union which are setting in hand on 18 July, with Baroness Valerie Amos, the UK Minister for Africa chairing the Council. Members regarded that as an opportunity to discuss how the lessons of Sierra Leone could be applied to the region more generally.

Central African Republic

On the Central African Republic we had interesting briefing from the Secretary-Generals representative in Bangui, General Lamine Cisse on the latest developments. Council Members considered the report of the Secretary-General of 14 June 2002 and renewed their strong support for the work of General Cisse and BONUCA the office in Bangui. Members of the Council decided to ask UNDP and the international financial institutions, the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank, to show consideration for the special circumstances of the Central African Republic. I will be preparing a letter as President

to those institutions to make that point. Council Members emphasised the importance of implementing the necessary reforms in the Central

African Republic. They took note with appreciation of the efforts by the Central African Republic Government to fight corruption and to establish good governance. They encouraged the Government to continue along this path and to take the national dialogue further forward. Council Members encouraged the Secretary-General and his representative to continue their efforts to improve the relations between the Central African Republic and their neighbours.

UNMIBH/ICC

Those are the two press statements on our business this morning. This afternoon there will be informal consultations on UNMIBH and the International Criminal Court. We will try and take forward discussions that have been going on, on language for a possible resolution. We will take that as it comes this afternoon.

Q: When do you hope for a vote?

- We are still hoping that we will be able to adopt something by the end of tomorrow. We will have to see how it goes. But that's my ambition.

Q: Have you made progress on the American proposal since yesterday?

- I think the fact the US put down further language yesterday, which is closer to some Council Members position, has meant progress. But there are further discussions today, here and in Washington and elsewhere, and I think we need to see this afternoon the product of those further discussions.

Q: Does the UK support the text as it stands, or must the US move further?

- We are interested in further evolution to get as many Members of the Council voting for a resolution as is possible.

G

Statement on the International Criminal Court/ UN peacekeeping, 12 July 2002

You have witnessed the vote on UN peacekeeping just taken. I am very pleased to report that it was a vote of unanimity in the Council. We had some difficult discussions over the last few days. You have been following them closely. But I think it is a significant achievement of the Council and of the United Nations. There are fifteen Members of the Council, whether elected or permanent, who listen carefully to what is going on in the United Nations as a whole and decided that they had to make a decision that preserved two very important institutions: the newly born International Criminal Court and its integrity and United Nations peacekeeping, with the full contribution of all major members of the United Nations. I was determined, as President of the Council, that we should succeed in reaching a decision that preserved the integrity and the effectiveness of both those institutions. I wish to pay tribute to my fellow Members of the Council, for enabling that result to be reached. We understand that there are differences of opinion. That is only natural when we are forging new ways to deal with the effects of globalisation in a climate of increasing interactivity in the international community. But the Security Council responded to the challenge that we were set with considerable spirit and all Members of the Council, not least the Permanent Representative of the US, played a very clear and constructive role in reaching that collective decision. Even with those who do not agree with it, there is a point of very clear and relevant agreement, and that is that it is almost inconceivable that a UN peacekeeper would ever become the subject of investigation by the court. As the Secretary-General has very eloquently pointed out it has never happened that a UN peacekeeper should be accused of the kind of crimes that are the business of the International Criminal Court. Nobody on the Council, and I believe nobody in the United Nations whatever their views on this resolution, believed that what we have provided for in this resolution would actually ever be triggered. But we had to come to a decision in the precise circumstances in which we found ourselves, -circumstances unenvisaged by those who brought the Court into being in 1998. We had to take a decision under Chapter VII to make sure that there was unity in the Council on how we proceeded with peacekeeping.

Finally I want to make it quite clear why there was a final amendment between our last talking to you after informal consultations and the final draft resolution, to operative paragraph 3. This now reads "decides that Members of the UN shall not take any action inconsistent with operative paragraph 1 and with their international obligations". The addition of those words "and with there international obligations" makes it quite clear that the Council is satisfied that operative paragraph 1 is in full

conformity with the international obligations of Member States and with the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Q: Ambassador, you just mentioned the Secretary-General's statements about the implausibility of UN peacekeepers being responsible for these kind of crimes, but what the Council voted on today extends well beyond UN peacekeeper's. We have seen UN authorised operations in places like Korea, the Somalia operation, the Persian Gulf War. These are all cases in which it is imaginable that serious war crimes have been committed and there have been allegations that these have occurred in the past. Are you not providing all of these kinds of operations with blanket immunity from people being brought to justice for crimes committed in theses kind of operations?

- You need to read the resolution carefully. Yes it does refer to UN established or authorised operations. But there is no mention of blanket immunity. What is being provided is, if a case arises, a timeout for the right action to be taken by the Member State whose national is accused or indicted. The Council would then consider, and I assume this will be under the criterion of justice, whether they wish to decide other than requesting the court to defer for a number of months its procedures on this. Then, when the next 1 July is reached, The Council would consider whether to take a new decision to extend that deferral. It is a very different proposition from the blanket immunity that was present in the earlier drafts.

Q: Can you assure the British public that if an American peacekeeper commits an atrocity that should come under the court, that the British Government will use its veto in the Security Council to lift the deferral at the next available opportunity.

- We would expect a US system to deal with that particular situation itself as we would do in the UK in those circumstances. That is why we are confident that British peacekeepers can act as they always acted even with this Statute and resolution.

Is it your understanding in paragraph 2 that the Council would need to vote affirmatively to extend the 12 months deferral?

- Correct. It would be necessary on the following first of July for the Council to decide positively that the deferral could be extended. Therefore it has to gain nine votes and not have the negative vote of a Permanent Member. Thank you very much.

H

Afghanistan, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina/ICC, Ethiopia and Eritrea, 12 July 2002

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen let me just bring you up date on the Security Council business this morning. We have covered several subjects this morning: Afghanistan, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia and Eritrea. I will take the last first.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

The Ethiopia and Eritrea Boundary Commission is meeting in the Hague on Monday 15 July and the Security Council is paying very close attention to that meeting. We agreed the following press statement:

- Members of the Council note that the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission has adopted the Demarcation Directions containing the operational arrangements for the border demarcation; including appropriate support from UNMEE (the UN Operation Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea), and its relationship with the Boundary Commission.

- Members of the Council expect that the 15 July meeting in the Hague between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the Boundary Commission will initiate full and effective cooperation by the parties in order to ensure an expeditious and orderly process.

- Members of the Council intend to take early follow up action to Resolution 1398 taking into account any decisions taken in the 15 July meeting at the Hague.

Afghanistan

On Afghanistan, I introduced a report to the Council from the UK as the preceding lead nation in the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, and noted the hand over to Turkish leadership of that force. That report is before the Council. In addition Sir Kieran Prendergast briefed the Council on recent events in Afghanistan including the unfortunate assassination of Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir and there was a very brief discussion of Afghanistan.

Croatia

Thirdly, on Croatia the Council has agreed on a text for the rollover of the UNMOP mandate in Prevlaka. That is now ready to be adopted before the end of Monday 15 July, which is when the current mandate runs out. I expect to schedule that on Monday.

Bosnia and Herzegovina/ICC

On Bosnia and Herzegovina we have continued discussions of the problem we are all now facing over the International Criminal Court. There was a very constructive proposal made by the delegation of Mauritius. That proposal was discussed. It was received with some warmth by virtually every Member of the Security Council. But there have been further textual proposals made. I have suspended the meeting on the ICC so that the discussion this morning, and the new textual proposal made, can be discussed with capitals by each delegation and considered before we return to informals at 1530 this afternoon . Thank you very much

I

Consultations on Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 16 July 2002

We discussed two main subjects in the Security Council this morning, both at some length.

Burundi

First of all Burundi, with a briefing form Under Secretary-General Prendergast. I would just like to read a press statement from the Council on that:

Members of the Council heard a briefing from Under Secretary-General Prendergast on the current situation in Burundi following talks that had taken place in Durban on the subject. Some further work is still to come.

- They expressed their continuing support for the transitional institutions and the whole Arusha Process. They also voiced their firm support for the Transitional National Government under the terms of Arusha, with a strong warning against any attempts by others to undermine the present coalition;

- Members of the Council appealed to the rebel groups to enter into negotiations for a cease fire. They looked forward to a high level meeting being arranged for late July in the region and underlying the importance of early progress towards a cease fire;

- Council Members expressed strong concern about the current humanitarian situation and the risks for returning refugees. They hoped UNHCR could soon resume full-scale efforts on refugee returns. [I talked to High Commissioner Lubbers about that this morning and he is interested in making progress there, but concerned about the security for UNHCR staff in Burundi.]

- Members of the Council thanked the South African Unit in Bujumbura for their excellent work so far on security and appreciated also the strong contributions of Tanzania, Gabon and South Africa with other regional States on facilitation of the negotiations;

- They appealed to donors to deliver on their funding promises with a focus if possible on budgetary assistance. They urged the IMF to move quickly into post conflict assistance.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

We then had a quite a long session on the Democratic Republic of the Congo with briefings by Under Secretary-General Guehenno and for the

first time in informal consultations, by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Mrs. Mary Robinson. They gave us a full briefing on the situation on the ground, on progress or non-progress being made on the inter-Congolese dialogue (there is activity there but no firm progress on a comprehensive result), and on the need for MONUC to look ahead and review what it is going to do over the next period. Mrs. Robinson gave us a detailed report building on her Special Rapporteur's findings, on what happened in Kisangani in May. The Council agreed to release Mrs. Robinson's report on that item, which will come round to you later today. And she gave us some recommendations for Security Council follow up which are part of that report. There was then a long and rather good discussion on how we should move forward. The details of that will be fed into an exercise being led by France to deliver a draft Presidential Statement back to the Council over the next week. So quite a substantive item on DRC between now and the end of the month.

Western Sahara

In other business I mentioned to the Council that I was getting in to the subject of Western Sahara, which we need to handle between now and 31 July. I am beginning talks with the parties. I have already got Mr Baker's views on how he wants the Council to take this forward, but there will need to be some quite intensive discussion on that item between now and the end of the month.

Q: Mr Ambassador on Congo, what was your sense on any new impetus by RCD- G to either take part in the dialogue or to have better dealings with the United Nations?

- I think RCD-G wish to re-enter the inter-Congolese dialogue and see whether there is not a comprehensive way of moving forward on that. The politics of this are also being discussed directly between the Presidents of DRC and Rwanda, who had a meeting in Durban last week. So there is quite a lot of activity there, including with President Mbeki and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Mr Niasse, who is also in the region at the moment. So activity, but not yet enough progress on that.

Q: Mr Ambassador could you give us some sense of what the report said in terms of whether there was an actual massacre in Kisangani or not?

- You will see from this report that the Special Rapporteur Ms Jahangir found the reports of human rights abuses, extra-judicial killings of quite high number, are largely true. So you will see that the report upholds the finding that there were indeed gross abuses of human rights in mid-May in Kisangani.

J

Informal consultations on the Middle East Peace Process, 17 July 2002

In informal consultations this afternoon we heard a briefing from the Secretary-General about the Middle East Peace Process the Quartet meeting, and the meeting of the Quartet with the Representatives of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, yesterday. The Council had a discussion about that and the Council is in the middle of considering how it will respond to the Quartet Statement. We will resume that tomorrow. Thank you.

Q: Mr Ambassador any reaction to the bombing of Israel about an hour and half ago?

- I let the Council know that that news flash had come in, and there was immediate regret expressed around the table that violence was continuing.

Q: What was the response to the draft Presidential Statement on the Quartet Statement?

- That was received very positively and we hope for a decision early tomorrow.

Q: What has happened with the Spanish and Moroccan Governments letters on the Island of Perejil/Leila? Any action envisaged on that?

- Both letters have gone round (Council Members). Neither asks for specific action by the Council.

K

Consultations on UNIFIL; Western Sahara; Ethiopia-Eritrea and Somalia, 22 July 2002

To brief members of the press on this mornings informal consultations we had three items on the agenda: UNIFIL; Western Sahara; Ethiopia – Eritrea and Somalia.

UNIFIL

- Let me make some points agreed in the Council. We had a briefing this morning from Jean Marie Guehenno, the Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. In the context of the need for renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, the Secretary-General has reported. The mandate expires on 31 July and we need to take decisions before then. The French delegation introduced a draft resolution which had a first discussion around the Council table with support in general for the Secretary-General's recommendations. But the draft will be discussed by experts if necessary and will come back to the Council, so that we know what particular points other Members of the Council may have on that. Meanwhile, Members of the Council insisted that all the violations of the cease-fire should stop - there had been too many in recent weeks - that UNIFIL should be allowed to do its job on the ground without impediment. There are still problems of access for UNIFIL and that point was strongly stressed this morning. But there was otherwise warm commendation from the Council for what UNIFIL is doing on the ground and for the work of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Steffan De Mistura.

Ethiopia Eritrea

- There was discussion of the need to look at one aspect of the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia Eritrea and that is demarcation of the boundary, with a need to focus on de-mining along demarcation lines. We needed to take up some points that came up in the Boundary Commission meeting in the Hague this time last week with the parties. This made some quite good progress but focused on some details of demarcation which will be taken forward by the Council. The Norwegian delegation proposed a draft resolution for the amendment of that mandate to take account of de-mining and demarcation requirements.

Somalia

- Thirdly we looked again at the draft resolution on the arms embargo in Somalia, which the Norwegian delegation again had been taking forward. Experts found that they agreed on that and then we took it straight into a meeting just now to adopt it, as Resolution 1425, on the arms embargo in Somalia.

Other Business

- Under other business I reported that I had a visit on Friday the 19th of July from the Secretary-General of the Polisario in which the Polisario put their concerns about current discussions and mandate renewal from MINURSO in Western Sahara. I told the Council that I was intending to take up this subject in informal consultations tomorrow and again if necessary, which I think it will be, on 26 July. Because we have a lot of work to do to see what response the Council will have to the Secretary-General's recommended options on MINURSO and on Mr Baker's Mission as Special Envoy. At the end of informal consultations the US delegation put forward a revised draft resolution as a basis for those informal discussions. So tomorrow and Friday will be informals on Western Sahara.

- Finally I reported on a visit I had this morning from the New York Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross who talked to me about their three priorities in Africa at the moment: Western Sahara, Liberia and Angola. All of which are course are under the eye of the Council at the moment.

Q: Ambassador, What reaction to the Secretary-General's appointment of Sergio Vieira de Mello?

- I will speak about that as UK Ambassador. We are very pleased at the appointment. We had earlier let the Secretary-General know that if that name came forward we would support it. Sergio's history as a UN servant and notably as administrator of East-Timor is very well known. He has wide experience of all kinds of work in the United Nations and considerable experience of work on human rights on the ground in a number of missions. His judgement, his competence his energy are all documented and therefore I think he is going to prove to be an excellent successor to the current High Commissioner.

Q: Ambassador, Where does the Somalia resolution take us now?

-This resolution that we have just adopted focused on the flow of arms into Somalia - we need to implement and monitor the arms embargo. It sets up a panel of three members for six months to do that monitoring. This will roughly be equivalent to the monitoring we do on Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia - other places where there are embargoes, it focuses on the need to try and put a damper on the rather free flow of arms that is coming across the borders into Somalia. It does not address the question, which lies with the Secretary-General at the moment, about whether a UN mission on the ground should go back to Mogadishu. That is a question of security and access for UN personnel and the Secretary-General is still rather reserved, I understand, about the security situation in Mogadishu and whether its yet suitable for UN personnel to return. We will come back to that, we need further reports to look at.

L

Informal consultations on ICTY, 23 July 2002

I bring to you what we covered in informal consultations this morning and also in a private meeting of the Council.

Private Meeting On ICTY

We had as our visitors this morning in the private meeting in the main chamber the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Judge Claude Jorda and the Prosecutor for the Tribunal Ms Carla del Ponte. They came to make a report to us on their proposal for the future work of the Yugoslav Tribunal, in terms of the number of cases they expect to hear over the next few years up to the current limit of Tribunal's life in 2008. They are making proposals for the division of cases the Tribunal proper in the Hague and special courts to be set up within the court system of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the intermediate level of indictees that come to the Tribunal's notice. The proposal from the President of the Court is to make that division for the efficient working of the Tribunal's business, by sharing it with the Bosnia system.

The Security Council took note of that report and is about to adopt a Presidential Statement to approve the general strategy that has been presented to the Council by the President of the Tribunal. The Council will then consider in greater detail the propositions that have put for the working of this new system and will take a decision at a later date on the full details of what is being proposed. So it is a two-stage process. We are about to approve the general strategy of this division of roles and then later there will be a decision on the detailed workings of the double Court, the two tier, eventually three tier, court because the lowest level of cases are really meant to got to the bottom of the system. That will be explained to you as we move along.

Western Sahara

We were due to have a discussion on Western Sahara in the informal consultations this morning. But there were several pieces of other business that we took first and we did not have a discussion on Western Sahara. That will be on the agenda for informal consultations tomorrow.

Other Business

- In other business of the Council this morning we cleared a Draft Presidential Statement on the Democratic Republic of Congo, which the French delegation has been negotiating. That is now cleared and is about to be taken into the formal meeting. I ought to make one specific point about that Presidential Statement. It is a reaction to the briefing we had last week on the events in Kisangani and on the exchange we

had with the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mrs Mary Robinson, and the report of her special Rapporteur. We note in this Presidential

Statement the ongoing work on the wider questions on the DRC and particularly the discussions between the Governments concerned with the Lusaka process, notably most recently the Governments of Rwanda and the DRC, brokered by the South African Government. This statement is not making any comment on the breaking news of progress being made in those discussions. We are waiting for a briefing from the Secretariat tomorrow or the next day on that subject and we will then come back with a press statement or a Presidential Statement to encourage a good result from those continuing discussions. So please don't take this morning's Presidential Statement as either a statement on those South African discussions or as an ignoring of them. We will come back to that question. We also went through the procedure this morning in informals for the handling of the application by Switzerland for joining the organisation. This will be processed through the Security Council tomorrow morning.

Q: Ambassador, on Swiss membership, will the Security Council be voting tomorrow?

Yes, correct.

M

Informal consultations on Western Sahara, UNIFIL and Sudan, 24 July 2002

Let me just take this opportunity to give you an account of this mornings informal consultations. We dealt with three issues mainly: Western Sahara; the draft Resolution on UNIFIL, which is making progress. (There was no discussion and, it will come back to the Council probably on Friday, with, I hope, an agreed draft for the continuation of UNIFIL's mandate) Thirdly, we agreed that there should be a statement to the press on the subject of the negotiations on Sudan and I have the following elements to give you on that.

Sudan

Members of the Council welcomed the signing on 22 July of the Machakos Protocol between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation movement, which represents a significant breakthrough on major issues and a major step towards the realisation of a just and lasting peace in Sudan. In connection with that signing, Members of the Council paid tribute first of all to the parties, but also to the President of Kenya, Mr Daniel arap Moi and His Special Envoy, Lieutenant General Sumbeiywo on behalf of IGAD, for their efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Sudan. Members of the Council appealed to the parties to continue to work for a successful conclusion of a global and definitive agreement during the course of 2002.

Western Sahara

We had a full table round and a very useful discussion on where Members of the Council and their Governments stand on the current situation in and around Western Sahara. There were comments on the draft which the US has put forward on behalf of also France and UK. There are also amendments from the Russian Federation. These have been taken to see what further textual amendments could be made to form a basis for a textual discussion , which I think will be held on Friday together with any further political discussion on the background to the dispute. So this was a useful first full round which will be followed on Friday with a further round, and which I hope will produce progress on a resolution. But, there is still quite a long way to go, because this is a divisive issue.

Arab Group request for a debate on Middle East

Another subject that came up today was the request by the Arab Group for a debate on the situation in the Middle East which the Council has now scheduled for 19.00 this evening. The timetable is very full over

the next few days and there was keenness to get on with what is a debate on a very topical issue and not to waste further time.

Other Business

I finally reported to the Council on a visit that I had had this morning for the Rwandan Special Envoy to the President, Mr Patrick Mazimhaka, with whom I discussed the recent memorandum of understanding that has been signed in South Africa between the Governments of Rwanda and the DRC and we hope that that memorandum of understanding will be ratified in the two capitals and implemented before long and the Council will need to discuss its part in the arrangements for that.

Q: Ambassador, what would are your plans for discussion on the resolution being circulated by the Arabs?

- I have to see the text of the resolution, they are coming to see me at 15.00 this afternoon. Thank you very much.

N

Informal consultations on Western Sahara, 26 July 2002

Western Sahara

This morning in informal consultations we talked plainly about Western Sahara. We had a briefing from Ambassador Swing who is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, he gave us a briefing on what is actually going on, on the ground, now in MINURSO: the continuation of the successful ceasefire arrangement, but still a rather poor humanitarian situation. The Council was very firm in calling for an improvement in the humanitarian situation, particularly a continuation of the release of Prisoners of War. The Council remains very concerned that so many prisoners have been held for so long in poor conditions, many of them ill. It is time to separate out the issue of Prisoners of War from the political situation. We had a discussion on where we might take the various draft proposals for the renewal resolution. The Council is coming to the conclusion that a complex resolution covering the four options put forward by the Secretary-General may not be the way to move forward at this present juncture. I adjourned that discussion and will try to make a proposal to the Council from the Presidency as to a more straight forward resolution to continue the mandate of MINURSO and, I hope, to continue the work of the Personal Envoy. But that is work in hand and I will report back to you when the Council has taken further decisions on it. There will be no further discussion in the Council of that subject today. We will come back to it on Monday or Tuesday. I am fully aware that the mandate has to be renewed by the end of Wednesday.

Other Matters

We checked on the progress of drafting of resolutions on UNIFIL in Lebanon and UNOMIG in Georgia: both drafts are making good progress and will be taken, if agreed, on Monday. Those are also mandate renewals for the end of the month. The programme for Monday will include a private meeting of the Council to hear the Georgian Minister for the Abkhaz briefing the Council Mr Kakabadze. Then we will go into informal consultations on the UNOMIG draft resolution and then continue as necessary with Western Sahara. Tuesday is Mr Steiner briefing us on UNMIK in Kosova and Wednesday is left for completion of business this month.

Q: Ambassador, how long will it take the Council to deal seriously with the problem of every time extending the MINURSO?

- I don't usually expect a political statement in a resolution of the Council on these matters. The Council is unanimous that they want MINURSO to continue and I believe that everybody on the Council subscribes to the principle that self-determination of the people of

Western Sahara should be provided for. But there is no text on the table at this moment for discussion.

Q: Ambassador, have you spoken recently with former Secretary Baker? Could you tell us what you spoke about? What is his view now on how you should go forward?

- I have kept in touch with Secretary Baker about developments in informal discussions in the Council, and so he is aware of where we are. His views are confidential to him.

Q: Ambassador, There was a draft resolution on the Middle East prior to the debate the other night, has that been taken any further? Or are you are you expecting that to be taken any further?

- That was not discussed this morning.

Q: Ambassador, any proposal from the Arab Group?

- That's up to them, I have not been approached by the Arab Group since Wednesday the 24 of July.

Q: Ambassador, Has Secretary Baker agreed to remain on his job and remain engaged on the process [in Western Sahara]?

- He has neither agreed nor not agreed. He wishes to see what decision the Council takes. This is work in hand, there is no decision on anything on the Western Sahara at this point.

O

Cnsultations on the Middle East, 26 July 2002

Middle East

We had further formal consultations this afternoon, as you predicted to me at 1230. There is now a draft on the table. You have seen it. It was tabled by the Syrian Arab delegation this afternoon and there was a first round of discussion on that draft. Most of the Members of the Council who spoke wished to have time to consult their capitals on the draft. One delegation made it clear that they would have considerable difficulties with the draft. It is further the feeling amongst those Members of the Council who spoke that it would be right to move forward if at all possible, with full consensus on this issue. It is an important issue in front of the Council. With those sentiments expressed, I adjourned the meeting and said that people should be in a position on Monday morning to express considered views from their Governments on this draft. We will see where we stand at that point. There was no other business other than the Middle East discussed this afternoon.

Q: Ambassador, in your capacity as UK Representative what do you see unreasonable in the draft?

- I don't have instructions on this draft. I too am consulting my capital.

Q: Ambassador, do you think there is anything that can be added to rafts of resolutions you have regards to the Middle East at this moment to move the situation?

- I wouldn't say that the Council had nothing to offer on this issue at all. So I would not give a negative to that. But we have to calculate very carefully how we add to the prospects for the parties to this dispute getting out of the difficulties they find themselves in. That is the most important aspect of this as I see it as President of the Council. I think the whole Council is keen to support the prospects for a return to negotiations. The Quartet and other emissaries did important work on this last week and I think the Council is very keen to maximise the opportunities for that bearing fruit. Unfortunately there was a nasty incident of violence in Gaza between then and now and that has to be dealt with. And the Council may, early next week, have something to offer on that.

Q: Ambassador, the report that the American Ambassador laid out some conditions for resolutions of this, what is your view of that?

- Neither as President nor as UK will I comment on the views of the United States on this. You will need to ask the US Ambassador.

Q: But what is your view of a Member laying out conditions?

- It is entirely his prerogative to do that and I think he did it perfectly fairly. But what those views are, they were in a confidential discussion, and how he takes them forward is entirely a matter for the US delegation. I think that the UK would always want a resolution to have elements of balance that take the whole situation forward in a fair way on the basis of previous resolutions.

Q: Ambassador, even with the reference to the cessation of all form of terror this is unreasonable to the Council?

- I am not saying that element is unreasonable, no.

P

Cnsultations on Georgia; Western Sahara; the Middle East, 29 July 2002

Let me just report on this morning's informal consultations. We had informal consultations to complete the draft on Georgia, on UNOMIG, which we just adopted. We also discussed two issues, which we still needed to settle: one is Western Sahara, the other is the Middle East situation.

Middle East

On the Middle East situation, we had a further discussion to see whether there was any progress on the draft, which the Arab Group put down on Friday afternoon. That draft did not make any further progress this morning. There will be further corridor consultations on that. And groups interested in that outside the Council are looking at the current situation. If necessary we will take it up tomorrow afternoon in informal consultations.

Other Matters

Tomorrow morning there will be a formal meeting to hear a briefing on Kosovo, from the Special Representative Mr Michael Steiner. We will then follow that with informal consultations, continuing into the afternoon at 1530 on the Middle East, if necessary, and on Western Sahara. There are indications that the current draft on Western Sahara will need further discussion. But I believe we can make further progress on that draft with discussion. That leaves Wednesday on the programme to complete our business on UNIFIL in Lebanon, which needs to be settled before the end of the month, and to take action on Western Sahara, which is also necessary before the end of the month, or on the Middle East.

Q: Ambassador, would you be following up with any personal consultations on the Middle East?

- Nothing further today, tomorrow afternoon is the next opportunity for that.

Q: Ambassador, there is a UNAMA report that says preliminary UN investigation says that US troops cleared the scene at the wedding party bombing. Are you aware of this story? Do you have any comment?

- I have seen in the press there is such a preliminary report. I have not seen the report nor has it been raised in the Council so I wouldn't like to comment until the report is with us properly, if it is even coming our way.

Q

Consultations on Western Sahara, UNIFIL, DRC/Rwanda, Middle East, 30 July 2002

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentleman, just to report to you on informal consultations this afternoon.

Western Sahara

First of all we resumed our discussion of Western Sahara on the basis of a revised draft. On Friday evening and then overnight into this morning there have been quite a lot of corridor discussions about that draft. And this afternoon we reached consensus on a draft text on Western Sahara, which we are going to adopt in a few minutes time. This renews the mandate of MINURSO for a further six months to the end of January 2003 and encourages the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, James Baker, to pursue his efforts with the parties. That is a good result. I believe that every member of the Council supports that new draft. It has the support I understand, or at least the condonement, of the parties and therefore I hope that will provide a good foundation for further work by the Personal Envoy to try and bring this long-standing dispute to an end or at least to make progress in the political negotiations that we have now asked for. The text of that resolution in its final form will be available to you shortly.

UNIFIL

Second, we agreed that we would move forward and adopt the text on UNIFIL this afternoon, - the force in Lebanon which is due for renewal for a further six months from tomorrow. That text will also be taken in a few minutes time and I hope it will be adopted unanimously in the Council.

DRC/Rwanda Agreement

We had a brief discussion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo following the signing of the MOU between the Governments of DRC and Rwanda this morning in South Africa and I am authorised to give you the following points on behalf of the Members of the Council. They welcomed the signing of the agreement today in Pretoria. They expressed their warm appreciation to the Government of South Africa for its role in facilitating the agreement. Members of the Council looked forward to examining the agreement in detail (we don't have a text of it in front of us) and hearing the considered view of DPKO and the mission of the UN in the Congo in due course. I understand that a briefing on that is likely to be scheduled early next week by the incoming American Presidency. Members of the Council called on the Government of Rwanda and the DRC, and as relevant the other Lusaka parties, to hold

early detailed discussion with MONUC on the practical implementation of the agreement. There is a lot of work there for the UN to do, but a lot of discussion is needed to find out exactly what that is. So that's another good development today.

Middle East

Finally we had a brief discussion of the Middle East. The text of the Arab Group remains on the table. We were not able this afternoon to reach consensus on that text. Discussions continue in informal consultations and that text remains on the table. So that was the one subject this afternoon that we did not reach any conclusion on.

R

Informal consultations on Africa, 31 July 2002

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

Let me just report on informal consultations this morning. We started off with a briefing from the Secretariat on events in Burundi and the Council was disturbed to hear of reports of continuing violence in Burundi including attacks on Bujumbura itself, with mortar shells and rockets being fired into the town. Members of the Council wanted me, on their behalf, to condemn those attacks. They are indiscriminately against civilians. There are also mines being laid on roads in the countryside of Burundi, which are indiscriminate in their effect. The Members of the Council wanted the rebel parties to first of all stop those attacks and the violence being propagated against civilians and also to join the negotiations which are going to resume in August, in Tanzania, on the peace process in Burundi. And they were critical also of the arms supplies that are being allowed to go to the rebel groups to continue these attacks inside Burundi. So that is a situation which will need watching by the Council.

We also had a discussion of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and resolution in Africa chaired by Ambassador Koonjul of Mauritius, who gave a report on the work of that Group. We adopted a number of recommendations. First of all on the creation of Groups of Friends of particular countries where conflict is on-going. And secondly on enhancing the relationship between the Security Council and the African Union, and particularly the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. And those recommendations are going to be taken forward. Also work on Guinea Bissau is going to be taken forward by the Working Group, working closely together with the ECOSOC Working Group on Africa, which is also taking forward the economic and social aspects of Guinea Bissau.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that the Security Council has become a parent today. The Security Council has become a foster parent of an African elephant that was caught by a snare earlier in the year, and rescued by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Nairobi. The UK Mission to the United Nations, as its present at the end of the July Presidency, has presented the Security Council with a fostership of the elephant - called Burra - which is now doing very well. It's ear was practically torn off by a snare, so it's not just peace and security in Africa, it's also wildlife that the Security Council is, at least temporarily, showing its concern for.

Are there any questions on today's business?

Q. Can you give us an impression of the response by the Council Members to this gift and whether it is going to become a tradition at the end of every month?

A. Well that is of course up to future Presidencies. But there was a very touching look of parental affection on the faces of Members around the Council. I think for a moment they wondered what the UK Mission were doing. But I think they then got the point and I hope the young elephant will be a sign of a long memory of the Security Council for things that go both right and wrong in Africa.

Thank you very much.